

(Woods Hole, Mass. en route)

June 20, 1951.

Dr. D. H. Wenrich,
Department of Zoology,
University of Pennsylvania,
Philadelphia 4, Pa.

Dear Dr. Wenrich:

Your letter of June 6, and message via Dr. Metz reached me at the Symposium at Cold Spring Harbor. The meetings were thoroughly exhausting, and left too little time to formulate or write a reply till now. Unfortunately, I have delayed too long already in writing about the AAAS symposium. If I could put it off for a few months longer there would be a low probability of a different conclusion, but as things stand now, I had better not complicate your task by further procrastination.

I regret, therefore, that I must decline your invitation to participate in the symposium in Philadelphia for the simple reason that it will be so far away from Madison, and I will not have the funds, (nor probably the time) to make the trip in such a way as will not unduly interfere with my responsibilities in Madison.

The proposal to split time between viruses and bacteria would have been quite acceptable, but I think should be avoided, if possible. Hershey is certainly the man to do viruses, if he will- perhaps he could be persuaded to do the whole job. M. Delbruck at CalTech is one other possibility, S.E. Luria at Illinois another to do bacteria and viruses together.

I will be sorry to miss the symposium personally, but look forward to its possible publication. The situation in bacteria seems to be developing in such a way that the kind of morphological information so desirable for correlations with sexual behavior of other forms may become available in time, perhaps, for a meeting in 1952 rather than 1951.

May I close with apologies for having postponed this letter; I hope you will understand the hectic circumstances surrounding it.

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg,
Associate Professor of Genetics